

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that a management server obtains status information from a network device, when the management server receives a request from a client device (i.e., “a status information obtaining part for, **when receiving a device-details screen request** containing identification information of a network device among said one or more network devices from a client device running a Web browser, **obtaining status information** stored in said status information storing part of the network device...”).

The Examiner acknowledges that Carcerano fails to teach or suggest the above features, but contends that Itoh does. In particular, the Examiner maintains that Fig. 8 and col. 7, lines 26-53 of Itoh disclose the above features. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertions for the following reasons.

As an initial matter, Itoh is directed towards acquisition of data, such as “printing data” for a printer unit 12 (i.e. rather than “status” information as recited in claim 1) (col. 4, lines 44-65). Further, in regard to Fig. 8 of Itoh, Applicant assumes the Examiner maintains that the terminal 5 discloses the claimed client device, the peripheral device 4 discloses the claimed network device, and the server 3 discloses the claimed management server.

Even by assuming *arguendo* that the above features disclose the claimed client device, peripheral device and management server, Itoh still fails to teach or suggest that the server 3 obtains status information from the peripheral device 4, when the server 3 receives a request from the terminal 5. For example, as set forth in the reference, the terminal 5 (alleged client

device) inputs a data request to the peripheral device 4 (alleged network device), rather than the server 3 (alleged management server) (col. 7, lines 39-44). Further, once the peripheral device 4 receives the data request, it sends an inquiry to its own internal database 42 to retrieve the requested data (col. 7, lines 45-48). There is no communication between a network device and a management server at the time of request. The retrieval data is then sent to the terminal 5 (col. 7, lines 48-49). All data provided in the internal database 42 appears to have been previously provided by the server 3 (i.e. alleged management server). However, such information appears to be acquired by a polling operation similar to the polling operation of the Carcerano reference (col. 7, lines 26-39). The data is not disclosed as being requested from the server 3 (alleged management server) “when” a request is received from a terminal 5 (alleged client device).

On the other hand, even if the Examiner construes Itoh’s peripheral device 4 as the claimed management server, the reference still fails to disclose the claimed features (i.e. since the peripheral device 4 refers to its own internal database in response to a received request, rather than obtaining status information from an additional network device).

Accordingly, rather than curing the deficient teachings of Carcerano, it appears that Itoh discloses a system which is similar to the system of Carcerano. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

In addition, claim 2 recites that the management server sends information containing names of image files associating with the specified abnormalities.

The Examiner maintains that col. 10, lines 6-27 of Itoh discloses such a feature. However, the cited portion merely discloses that the peripheral device 6 can be an “image capturing device”. There is no disclosure of a management server sending information containing names of image files associated with abnormalities, as recited in claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Itoh fails to disclose the features of claim 2, and likewise fails to cure the deficient teachings of Carcerano.

C. Claim 3

Since claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Further, as stated above, Itoh merely discloses that the peripheral device 6 can be an “image capturing device.” There is no disclosure that the alleged management server holds image data representing an “outside appearance of a network device,” as recited in claim 3.

Accordingly, since Itoh fails to cure the deficient teachings of Carcerano, Applicant submits that claim 3 is patentable over the cited references.

D. Claims 4 and 5

Since claims 4 and 5 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

E. Claims 6, 9 and 12

Since claims 6, 9 and 12 contain features which are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 6, 9 and 12 are patentable over the cited references for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

F. Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13

Since claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 contain features which are analogous to the features recited in claims 2 and 3, Applicant submits that claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are patentable over the cited references for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

Further, since claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are dependent on claims 6, 9 and 12, respectively, Applicant submits that claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

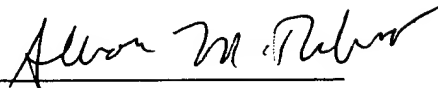
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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